

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-7 and 9-14 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 15-56 remain in this application, claims 1-14 having been canceled.

The Examiner's indication that claims 15-56 are allowed is appreciatively noted. Claims 15-56 being the only claims now pending -- all other claims having been canceled by amendment -- the application should now be in condition for allowance.

All claims now being in allowed form, early action and quick passage to issue is earnestly solicited.

In light of the foregoing, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application with a view toward allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if a telephone call could help solve any remaining items.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 16, 2002

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